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FORMER SPY QUERIES CIA

Suspended Agent Questions Searching Procedures

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Washington, Aug. 12 (AP)—Hans V. Tofte said today he demanded at a CIA inquiry a public statement by Richard Helms, intelligence chief, on whether the spy agency illegally searches American homes.

Tofte reported this after a brief confrontation today with the Central Intelligence Agency panel checking charges that he violated security regulations.

The 55-year-old Danish-born veteran of cloak-and-dagger operations going back to World War II said he was told as the meeting began that "it was a board of inquiry" so "I made one inquiry:

"Has the CIA now stopped entering people's homes illegally, minus a warrant and without due process of law within the continental limits of the United States of America?"

Yes Or No

He said he demanded that Helms "answer yes or no in person and in public."

"All of a sudden the meeting was over," he added. "I was escorted out the whole meeting

lasted six minutes."

There was no CIA comment on Tofte's versions of today's events.

Tofte noted that the CIA is empowered by its charter to run intelligence operations overseas, but not inside the United States.

He contends that even CIA employees have a citizen's right against illegal search and seizure at home—and that the CIA violated this in getting documents from his house July 24. He says he would have freely admitted CIA security men if they had arrived with proper legal authority.

CIA Version

The CIA's version is that Tofte's house was up for rent and a fellow CIA employee chanced on secret CIA documents there while he was genuinely apartment hunting. It is against CIA regulations to take classified material

home. The CIA employee returned the following day with a security man and picked up the documents.

Tofte has been suspended with pay from his \$25,000-a-year position, while the CIA probes the case.

Tofte confirmed a report that he had written a letter to a Mason City (Iowa) friend, which contains criticism of the present CIA set-up. A story by Clark Mollenhoff in the Cowles Newspapers said the letter indicates Tofte have inside information about the Bay of Pigs, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnamese operations that could embarrass the CIA.

The CIA had no comment.